

1       **In the Claims:**

2       CLAIMS

3       I claim:

5       1. (Currently Amended) A denture comprising:

7              a tray including outer walls, inner walls, a channel  
8       between the inner walls, a flange, the flange formed by the  
9       meeting of the inner and the outer walls, the tray being  
10      generally U-shaped, and a tooth receiving portion;

11             a plurality of teeth in the tooth receiving portion;  
12      and

13             a layer of gum receiving material, the gum receiving  
14       material applied to the inner walls and flange, thereby  
15       forming a gum receiving member; the gum receiving member  
16       being deformable when subjected to water having a  
17       temperature greater than ambient temperature but less than  
18       100 degrees C (212 degrees F.), the gum receiving [[reline]]  
19       material conforming to the configuration of a gum received  
20       within the gum-receiving member[.] when fitted thereto by  
21       an individual user.

23       2. (Original) The denture as described in claim 1, wherein  
24       the gum receiving material is a denture reline material.

26       3. (Original) The denture as described in claim 2, wherein  
27       the reline material is selected from the group consisting of  
28       acrylic reline material and silicone reline material.

30       4. (Currently Amended) The denture as described in claim 3,

1       wherein the gum is a gum of the user. ~~A user of the denture.~~

2

3       5. (Original) The denture as described in claim 4, wherein  
4       the denture is an upper denture, and the upper denture does  
5       not include a palate.

6

7       6. (Cancelled)

8

9       7. (Currently Amended) A method for fitting a denture in  
10      situ in the mouth of an individual, the method comprising  
11      the steps of:

12

13           selecting the denture to fit the individual, the  
14       denture comprising:

15           a tray including outer walls, inner walls, a channel  
16       between the inner walls, a flange, the flange formed by the  
17       meeting of the inner and the outer walls, the tray being  
18       generally U-shaped, and a tooth receiving portion;

19           a plurality of teeth in the tooth receiving portion;  
20       and

21           a layer of gum receiving material, the gum receiving  
22       material applied to the inner walls and flange, thereby  
23       forming a gum receiving member; the gum receiving member  
24       being deformable when subjected to a temperature greater  
25       than ambient temperature but less than 100 degrees C (212  
26       degrees F.);

27

28           preparing the selected denture by heating the selected  
29       denture in water having [[to]] a temperature greater than  
30       ambient temperature but less than 100 degrees C (212 degrees

1 F) ;

2  
3 positioning the prepared denture within the mouth, the  
4 gum receiving member receiving a gum of the individual; and  
5

6 fitting the denture by the application of a biting  
7 force to the denture[.] , which biting force is applied  
8 for a time period sufficient for the gum receiving member to  
9 conform to the gum, thereby providing a comfortable fit when  
10 fitted by the individual.

11  
12 8. (Cancelled)

13 9. (Cancelled)

14  
15 10. (Original) The method as described in claim 9, wherein  
16 the time period is between approximately 1 minute and  
17 approximately 30 minutes.

18  
19 11. (Original) The method as described in claim 9, wherein  
20 the heating step comprises immersion of the selected  
21 denture in water at a temperature between approximately 38  
22 degrees C and approximately 95 degrees C.

23  
24 12. (Original) The method as described in claim 11, wherein  
25 the heating step comprises immersion of the selected  
26 denture in water at a temperature between approximately 45  
27 degrees C and approximately 80 degrees C.

28  
29 13. (Original) The method as described in claim 11, further  
30 comprising the step of fitting a second denture in the

1       mouth, the second denture being fitted in opposition to the  
2       first denture.

3

4       14. (Original) The method as described in claim 13, wherein  
5       the individual is edentulous.

6

7       15. (Original) The method as described in claim 13, wherein  
8       the first denture is selected from the group consisting of a  
9       lower denture and an upper denture.

10

11      16. (Cancelled)

12      17. (Cancelled)

13      18. (Cancelled)

14

15      19. (Currently Amended) An upper denture comprising:  
16            a tray including outer walls, inner walls, a channel  
17       between the inner walls, a flange, the flange formed by the  
18       meeting of the inner and the outer walls, and a tooth  
19       receiving portion;

20            a plurality of teeth in the tooth receiving portion;  
21       and

22            a layer of gum receiving material, the gum receiving  
23       material applied to the inner walls and flange, thereby  
24       forming a gum receiving member; the gum receiving member  
25       being deformable when subjected to water having a  
26       temperature greater than ambient temperature but less than  
27       100 degrees C (212 degrees F.);

28            the tray being generally U-shaped and lacking a palate.

29

30

1       20. (Currently Amended) A denture for being fitted in situ  
2       in the mouth of an individual in need of a denture, the  
3       denture comprising:

4  
5            a tray including outer walls, inner walls, a channel  
6       between the inner walls, a flange, the flange formed by the  
7       meeting of the inner and the outer walls, the tray being  
8       generally U-shaped, and a tooth receiving portion;

9            a plurality of teeth in the tooth receiving portion;  
10       and

11           a layer of denture reline material, the denture reline  
12       material selected from the group consisting of acrylic  
13       reline material and silicone reline material, the reline  
14       material applied to the inner walls and flange, thereby  
15       forming a gum receiving member, the gum receiving member  
16       being deformable when subjected to water having a  
17       temperature greater than ambient temperature but less than  
18       100 degrees C (212 degrees F.), the reline material  
19       conforming to the configuration of a gum received within the  
20       gum-receiving member.